Better Cotton trials innovative traceability solutions in India

MUMBAI, APRIL 20—

Better Cotton is piloting innovative traceability technologies from Retraced, TextileGenius, Haritca and Tailorfox within India’s cotton supply chains to determine the best way to boost transparency across cotton supply chains. Conducted in collaboration with companies including C&A, Marks & Spencer, Target, and Walmart, the project will see each technology track and trace movements throughout the supplier networks of participating brands and retailers.

This will build on Better Cotton’s ongoing work to re-architect its Chain of Custody (CoC) model and revolutionise traceability across complex cotton supply chains. In practice, it will help establish greater visibility of the journey of yarn or fabric, from the farm to fashion and provide an opportunity to test advanced solutions ahead of Better Cotton offering traceability at a limited scale this year.

Both digital and physical traceability solutions will be deployed in discrete cotton supply chains to assess their performance, with the results set to inform the scaled deployment of Better Cotton’s traceability programme. Digital traceability is being provided by leading platforms, Retraced and TextileGenius. Better Cotton is also testing two additive traces, Haritca and Tailorfox, before determining the potential of each solution.

There are over one million Better Cotton farmers in India, and it is one of the largest producers of Better Cotton globally. However, domestic supply chains are amongst the most complex in the world and are far more fragmented than in other regions. Until now, it has been difficult to get a holistic view of traceability in the supply chain. Better Cotton’s new traceability system will need to align and eventually go beyond the capabilities of existing traceability solutions to provide full end-to-end visibility.

With physical traceability, Better Cotton will be able to verify the provenance of certified materials with greater accuracy. This pilot programme will expand upon Better Cotton’s Chain of Custody framework that incorporates the concept of “mass balance”—a widely-used volume tracking technology. Mass balance allows Cotton to be substituted or mixed with conventional cotton by traders or spinners along the supply chain whilst ensuring that the amount of Better Cotton sold never exceeds the amount of Better Cotton produced. The new traceability framework will allow greater flexibility and visibility of the physical flow of cotton through chains as our networks grow.

After consulting with our members across the supply chain and getting to grips with their needs and pain points, we’ve taken those learnings and tested solutions in India to bring traceable Better Cotton to life. What we’ve found is helping us to prepare to offer a scalable new system to our members as early as this year. Not only
did the number of companies reporting high inventory levels increase in Asia and Europe. Among segments, it is the highest for home textile producers. ITMF Survey says.

Exhibition of handloom & handicraft at Somnath & Dwarka showcases exquisite range from Tamil Nadu and Gujarat

NEW DELHI, APRIL 20—

The Ministry of Textiles has organised an exhibition of handlooms and handicrafts from Tamil Nadu and Dwarka, showcasing the exquisite range of handloom and handicrafts from the States of Tamil Nadu and Gujar. The Ministry is also organizing a Chintan Shivir with Textile Industry stakeholders on 21-22 April 2023 at Rajkot, to discuss and deliberate upon various important agendas and topical issues pertaining to the textile industry.

The activities are part of ‘Sauraashtra Tamli Sangamam’. The ‘Saurashtra Tamli Sangamam’ is organized in close coordination between Central and State Government of Gujarat, supported by various institutions and ministries including the Ministry of Textiles.

The Chintan Shivir program spread over 2 days shall include 2 expert discussions on (a) exploring opportunities for India in Technical Textile with focus on Home-Tech and Cloth Tech products and (b) Roadmap for Sustainability & Circularty 21st April 2023. Textile Advisory Group (TAG) meetings on cotton and man-made fibres are planned to take place in the afternoon of 22nd April 2023, up with Soft Launch of e-commerce portal of Handloom and Handicraft products. The ‘Sauraashtra Tamli Sangamam’ is centered around 11 lakh Saurashtra people currently settled in 47 cities/towns of Tamil Nadu trace their origins to the Gujarat State.

Restoring Original Rotor Performance with Yarn Clearer Refurbishment

Optical yarniners detect yarn inconsistencies. Their performance is critical for the quality of rotor yarn. Customers who refresh their yarn clearer regularly, benefit from improved yarn quality and consistent performance. Ritter machine refurbishing the yarn clearer after five to ten years of operation to restore its original performance.

Ritter’s semi-automated rotor spinning machine BT 923 is widely used among customers and is one of the company’s most popular models. See Fig. 1.

Based on Ritter’s experience, the yarn clearer inspection and clearing function of the yarn clearer IQs, may deteriorate after five to ten years of continuous operation, primarily due to ageing of the equipment.

This deterioration in performance can lead to issues such as yarns not cutting, which can cause quality inconsistencies. It can also lead to increased yarn cutting and unsightly migration of the rotor spinning position which will significantly increase the workload for machine operators due to pencing and restart. Hence, the overall production efficiency drops. Uniform and consistent yarn clearing is key Ritter provides a fast and cost-effective solution with its IQ-4 yarn clearer refurbishment which can be carried out at Ritter’s globally in the local spare parts. The special refurbishment kit comprises a new housing and the replacement of broken housings and aged components.

After the refurbishment, the yarn clearer is calibrated using specialized test equipment to ensure the best quality. The yarn clearer reference value is recalibrated based on the original equipment specification. See Fig. 2.

Ritter yarn clearers use advanced optical sensor technology with an integrated microcontroller for an online evaluation. This sensor precisely detects yarn faults and communicates to the machine software. Refurbishing damaged or non functioning yarn clearers not only helps reduce maintenance costs but also helps extend the lifetime of the spare parts. The uniform and consistent quality of yarn delivered from each rotor spinning position eliminates the need for operator intervention.

For all your requirements in Polyester Fibers, Textile, and Elastomeric Yarn SD, Cotton and Viscose, BCF, Terylene, Viscose, Nylon, Polyester, Spandex from China, India, Korea, Taiwan and South East Europe, contact Eve Fabrics Pvt. Ltd., chensody@evefabrics.com

By Our Staff Reporter

The global business situation in the textile industry has been negative since January 2022 and is still deteriorating. Companies around the world and across all segments face a “perfect storm”-sounding cocktail of high production costs and relatively low demand.

However, at the same time, companies’ expectation for the business climate in the next month have been improving since March 2022. It is unclear if this growing optimism about the mid-term future is due to believe that the situation cannot get much worse or anticipation for a well-founded economic normalisation, according to the results of the 19th International Textile Manufacturers’ Federation (ITMF) Global Textile Industry Survey.

The survey reveals that order intake has also steadily decreased since November 2021, the share of respondents to the 19th ITGTS recorded no order cancellations during the last 3 months decreased from 8% to 5% in the same period.

The phenomenon is strong in Asia and Europe. The misfiring of orders between spindles and touchers appears to be relatively more. 38% of respondents also rated inventory as a concern worldwide.

The objective of ‘Sauraashtra Tamli Sangamam’ is to promote age-friendly policies and promote innovation and creativity in the textile industry and to promote Agri-cultural reforms to modernize the textile industry and to promote the use of advanced technology in the textile industry.

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Macroeconomic Overview:
Uncertainty surrounding the trajectory of U.S. economic growth persists. The labor market continues to add jobs at rates higher than those experienced in the decade following the financial crisis. However, inflation also remains higher than the rates experienced in the decade following the financial crisis. As a result, the Federal Reserve has continued to boost interest rates (the Federal Funds rate was increased another 25 basis points in March). There have been fears of a recession for some time, and those concerns have yet to be realized. The continued strength of the labor market and consumer spending are growing increasing support to ideas that a “soft landing” may be possible despite the Federal Reserve’s plans to reduce asset purchases (reaching levels over $4 billion per month in March 2022). Stresses associated with rate increases contributed to the recent turmoil in the banking sector, and many are concerned that the risks could spread into other segments of the economy. The effects of higher interest rates tend to be lagged, and it remains unknown what the complete eventual impact may be.

Consumer spending, which represents the majority of U.S. economic activity, has proven robust. Overall spending is up 7.9% relative to the average in 2019. Spending on apparel is up 25.7% year-over-year. A tight job market and savings accumulated during the pandemic have contributed to this growth. However, wage growth has not kept up with inflation since the first half of 2021. Savings rates have plummeted from record highs with stimulus payments (reaching levels over $1 trillion in March 2022). The level of savings witnessed in the decade after the financial crisis was (above five percent between 2010 and early 2020) currently below five percent. Employment growth remains strong at 2,260,000 jobs in March. While this figure could have been considered reasonable for the March labor market, it was the smallest monthly addition since December 2020. Revisions to figures for previous months were mixed. The value for January fell -32,000 to 472,000.

The value for February rose +15,000 to 426,000. The current twelve-month average is 453,000 jobs per month.

The unemployment rate declined by 0.3% between February and March. Since January 2022, levels have held below four percent and rank among the lowest on record. With continued job growth, a factor that has prevented the unemployment rate from falling below the five percent level, and inflation at five percent, the labor market has been described as a “tight labor market.” The proportion of people in the labor force has also been rising. The job opening rate has been on the rise, which is encouraging. The current reading of 4.2% is the highest level of the current expansion (March 2020).

Rupees gains 11 paise to close at 82.14 against US dollar

The rupee appreciated 11 paise to close at 82.14 (provisional) against the US dollar on Thursday, as crude oil prices retreated from elevated levels. Forex traders said a positive trend in domestic equities also supported the local unit.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 82.21 against US currency and finally closed at 82.14 (provisional) against the greenback, registering a gain of 11 paise over its previous close.

US committed to advancing economic growth with India: White House

WASHINGTON, Apr 20-(PTI) The Biden administration is committed to working together with India in groups like the Quad to advance economic growth and expand bilateral cooperation, the White House has said.

In November 2017, India, Japan, the US, and Australia agreed to the joint statement on the Quad, a strategic partnership that would shape the long-term proposal of setting up the Quad to develop a new strategy to keep the critical sea routes in the Indo-Pacific free from influence.

"The United States and India have a strong bilateral relationship and that’s including as trade as well, trade relationships, security, and other things," Biden said in her daily news conference on Wednesday.

"We are committed to continue working together and in groups like the Quad to advance economic growth for our two countries and expand cooperation of our shared priorities. That is the commitment that you can know that is coming from the United States," Jean Pierre said.

US President Joe Biden hosted the first-ever summit of the Quad in 2021 and vowed to strive for an Indo-Pacific region that is free, open, inclusive, anchored by democratic values, and unconstrained by coercion, sending a subtle message to China.

Beijing claims almost all of the 1.3 million square miles of the South China Sea as its sovereign territory. China has been building military bases on artificial islands in the region also claimed by Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan, and Vietnam.

The top US officials’ remarks came in response to a question on the US becoming India’s largest trading partner, surpassing China.

"The US has emerged as India’s biggest trading partner in 2022-23 according to account of increasing economic ties between the two countries. According to the provisional data of the commerce ministry, the bilateral trade between India and the US was $42.3 billion in the fiscal year 2022-23, up 25% over the period to US$ 128.55 billion in 2022-23 as against US$ 119.5 billion in 2021-22. It was US$ 80.5 billion in 2020-21."

Innovative cotton traceability solutions in India

Continued from Page 1 Col 2 will benefit our members, but will benefit farmers who implement sustainable agricultural practices by ensuring they can continue to access increasingly regulated markets, says Alan McClay, CEO of Better Cotton. At M&S, we source 100% of the cotton for our clothing from more responsible sources, however, across the industry the global supply chain remains complex and subject to disruption. Since 2021, we have been proud to work with Marks & Spencer to develop Better Cotton to improve cotton farming globally. We’re partnering with farmer organizations and working towards an actionable, joint industry plan to advance the cotton value chain. We want to help cotton farmers increase their productivity, improve their livelihoods, and reduce their environmental impact. We’re working towards a certification system so cotton farmers can demonstrate their commitment to sustainability.

Trade envoy Tai says US not seeking to ‘decouple’ from China

TOKYO, Apr 20 (AP) — The Biden administration is not seeking to ‘decouple’ the American economy from China’s, U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai said Thursday while on a trip to Japan after being appointed to the top U.S. trade envoy, said all members of President Joe Biden’s administration have been “very clear that it is not the intention to decouple” China’s economy.

“Trade sanctions against China are ‘narrowly targeted,’ she said.

Equity markets settle with marginal gains in volatile trade

MUMBAI, Apr 20 (AP) — Market benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty ended with marginal gains on Thursday after falling in the past three days, helped by fag-end buying in energy, metals and finance sector stocks.

In a highly volatile trade, the 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 64.55 points or 0.11 per cent to 61,583.35. The 50-share Nifty advanced 125.8 points to 18,660.65. During the day, it hit a high of 61,936.79 and a low of 59,488.98.

Markets settle with marginal gains in volatile trade.

Compared with the previous close, the 30-share BSE Sensex ended 227 points higher at 61,583.35 while the broader Nifty also rallied 125.8 points to 18,660.65.

The Sensex, which opened 270 points lower at 60,916.57, was trading 227 points higher at 61,583.35 by 3.45 pm. The Nifty, which opened 170 points lower at 18,494.83, was trading 125.8 points higher at 18,660.65 by 3.45 pm.

Intraday high for the Sensex was 61,936.79 and the intraday low was 59,488.98.

Traders fault US for not wanting to ‘decouple’ China

The US has emerged as India’s biggest trading partner in 2022-23 according to account of increasing economic ties between the two countries. According to the provisional data of the commerce ministry, the bilateral trade between India and the US was $42.3 billion in the fiscal year 2022-23, up 25% over the period to US$ 128.55 billion in 2022-23 as against US$ 119.5 billion in 2021-22. It was US$ 80.5 billion in 2020-21.
FAQ regarding the Suspension of Control Union India

**BACKGROUND**
The following information is intended to help clarify questions surrounding the suspension of the certification body. Control Union (CU) India. Textile Exchange's Guidance Regarding the Suspension of CU India.

Additionally, we have issued a new calibration 229 to address the issue of transfer audits during a CB suspension period. More information on this can be found below. We have also removed the following text: "and do not correlate to any opening or closing period Dec '23.

**Q&A**

**CAN YOU CLARIFY THE SEQUENCE OF EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE SUSPENSION ON MARCH 3, 2023?**

Textile Exchange for the implementation of our assurance for the implementation of our independent accreditation of certification bodies (CBs). A fundamental part of third-party credibility includes entrusting accreditation bodies with independent decision-making.

**IOAS, CU India’s accreditation body, has suspended CU India’s accreditation to all Textile Exchange standards and countries included in the current accreditation scope.**

A positive outcome will mean that CU India corrects their non-conformities within the required timeframe (30 days), the accreditation review and accepts the corrective actions, and the suspension of CU India is lifted for Textile Exchange scopes.

**HOW DOES THE SUSPENSION AFFECT PREVIOUSLY APPROVED TCS?**

Transaction certificates previously issued by CU India are still considered valid – unless otherwise notified by CU India or Textile Exchange.

**AND HOW DOES THE SUSPENSION AFFECT CURRENTLY PENDING TCS?**

Transaction certificate applications that are currently pending are not allowed to be processed while CU India is suspended. May material received without a TC be processed at the certified site? Yes, material may still move through the supply chain without a TC issued.

**WHAT MATERIAL RECEIVED WITHOUT A TC WILL STILL BE PROCESSED AT THE CERTIFIED SITE?**

Yes, material received without a TC may still be processed at the certified site, however, no TCs will be issued until the incoming TC is received.

**IS IT NECESSARY TO HAVE A NEW AUDIT BEFORE MY NEW SC IS ACTIVE?**

We have issued a clarification about this topic; you can learn more in our Guidance Regarding the Suspension of CU India.

**IS IT NECESSARY TO HAVE A NEW SC ISSUED?**

When an organization transfers between certification bodies (from the “preceding certification body” to the “succeeding certification body”), the organization transfers between certification bodies.

**WHAT IS MY EXPIREMENT TIME FOR THE SCONNECTION?**

There is no expiry date for TCs as long as the TC was issued before the March 3rd 2023 suspension date, it can be used as an input TC in the next stage of processing. If the TC is past the 180-day issuance allowance, it may not be requested again to be renewed.

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Yes, material received without a TC may still be processed at the certified site, however, no TCs will be issued until the incoming TC is received.

**IS THE INDUSTRY IMPACTED?**

Yes, this is a possibility. This decision would be up to IOAS India to determine.

**WHERE DO I FIND A LIST OF APPROVED CBS FOR INDIA, BANGLADESH, PHILIPPINES IN CASE I WANT TO TRANSFER TO A NEW CB?**

You can find a full list of CBS on our website. (You can control command f and search “India”)

**DO YOU HAVE ANY RECORDS ABOUT CU INDIA’S PROGRESS TOWARDS POTENTIAL RE-ACCREDITATION?**

CU India has released a restriction logic in our ingestion process and are making changes to their systems, this is the highest risk point in the supply chain. For this reason, we have excluded TCs based on the seed list cotton input TCs from Calibration 229. If the CU India suspension is not lifted, affected shipments may be unable to go OCS TCs. While we are disappointed by this potential scenario, our priority is ensuring confidence in our system.

**IS IT POSSIBLE THE SCOPE OF THE SUSPENSION WILL CHANGE EVEN IF FULL RE-ACCREDITATION IS NOT ACHIEVED?**

Yes, it is possible for specific standards or countries to be suspended. Yes, this is a possibility. This decision would be up to IOAS India to determine.

**WHAT MATERIALS ARE SOLD SHIPPED WITHOUT A TC AND STILL PLEDGER TO HAVE THE TC ISSUED?**

Yes, material may still move through the supply chain without a TC issued.

**HOW WILL I KNOW IF THE SUCCESSION CB IS CONFIRMED?**

When a material is sold/shipped without a TC, the succeeding CB will be responsible for the costs associated with the audit.

**WILL THIS HAPPEN AGAIN IN THE FUTURE?**

There will be a cost associated with this new process, but the succeeding CB will be responsible for the costs associated with the audit.

**HOW SHOULD I EXPECT THE TRANSFER TO TAKE PLACE?**

Each situation is unique in terms of different factors that need to be planned. The succeeding CB will be able to provide more information as to the transfer time based on the relevant factors as well.

**AT WHAT POINT IS A FINAL PRODUCT NOT ELIGIBLE FOR CLAIMS AND LABELING?**

Products affected by the suspension fall into the following instances: 1. the brand is not certified, or 2. the brand is certified, but the final product TC from the direct supplier of that shipment is not available or has been invalidated.

**IS IT NORMAL FOR TCS TO BE ISSUED IN A SUSPENSION?**

The scope of suspension decided by an accreditation body can vary depending on the type and extent of non-conformities found. The scope does not always include suspension of transaction certificate issuance. IOAS deemed this to be necessary in this situation.

**IN CALIBRATION 229, WHY IS SEED COTTON OMITTED?**

Due to the shift from national certification to voluntary systems, this is the highest risk point in the supply chain. For this reason, we have excluded TCs based on the seed list cotton input TCs from Calibration 229. If the CU India suspension is not lifted, affected shipments may be unable to go OCS TCs. While we are disappointed by this potential scenario, our priority is ensuring confidence in our system.

**DO YOU HAVE ANY RECORDS ABOUT SC PROGRESS AND WHICH NUMBERS/PERCENTAGES/SCS/TCS FROM EACH CB ARE STILL NOT INTEGRATED IN DTRACKIT?**

To date we have received approximately 42k (~90%) SC records. By the end of 2022, we will have integrated all SCs from each CB.

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